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**National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT)  
 State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA)  
 CRDF Global**

**2012 EARLY CAREER SUPPORT PROGRAM (ECSP)  
 Program Announcement**

<b>I.</b>	<b>Competition Snapshot</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Competition Timeline</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Program Guidelines</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Application Instructions</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Selection Process</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Special Requirements</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Export Control</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Human Subjects</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Protection of Confidential Information</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Intellectual Property</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Award Administration</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Definitive Version of This Announcement</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>X.</b>	<b>Additional Information and Support</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Application Forms</b>	<b>10</b>

## I. Competition Snapshot

Competition Opens	September 5, 2012
Application Deadline	November 5, 2012 16:00 (Yerevan time)
Proposal Writing Workshop	October 1, 2012 16:00 (NFSAT Office)
How to Apply	Please submit proposals to CRDF Global at <a href="mailto:armenia@crdfglobal.org">armenia@crdfglobal.org</a> , and to NFSAT at <a href="mailto:ecsp-12@nfsat.am">ecsp-12@nfsat.am</a>
General Area	All basic or applied sciences & engineering
Basic Eligibility	Early career researcher (received Ph.D. or Kandidat of Science within 5 years of application submission); affiliated with State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA) or its research institutes; and legal resident of Armenia
Award Amount	up to \$15,000 each
Award Duration	Up to 2 years (25 months including reporting period)

## II. Background

The National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT), the State Engineering University of Armenia (SEUA), and CRDF Global are pleased to announce the 2012 Early Career Support Competition. This program aims to support outstanding applications in the fields of physical, natural, and technical sciences.

**CRDF Global** is an independent, nonprofit organization established to promote international scientific and technical collaboration through grants, technical resources and training. Additional information about CRDF Global is available at <http://www.crdfglobal.org>.

**The National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT)** is a non-profit organization established by Armenian legislation in 1997. NFSAT's goals are promoting scientific research and technological development in various fields, and developing the scientific & engineering potential of scientists and researchers in the Republic of Armenia by providing competitively selected grants. Additional information about NFSAT is available at <http://www.nfsat.am>.

## III. Scope

This program will award up to ~7.0 million AMD (\$15,000) each to about 7 Armenian research teams for a two-year period. The total amount available for this program is \$100,000.

The program will accept applications from individual or team applicants. The principal investigator (applicant or team leader) should have a degree in basic or applied sciences or engineering, 3 years of scientific or scientific-pedagogical experience, and at least 3 publications in the past three years. The Program requires that all individual applicants or team leaders should have received their Ph.D. (Kandidat of Science) degree within 5 years of application submission.

The competition is designed to provide support to early-career Armenian scientists and engineers with opportunities to:

1. Increase the ability of Armenian researchers to concentrate on full-time research;
2. Increase the researchers' ability to perform high-quality research, both in applied and basic sciences; and
3. Advance the grantees' research activities and increase their visibility in the international research community.

All funding decisions will be based on independent, peer-reviewed assessments of each application and will be determined by the scientific merit of the applications. All decisions of NFSAT and CRDF Global are final.

#### IV. Competition Timeline

The Early Career Scholars Competition will follow the following timeline.

	Starts	Ends
Proposal Deadline	November 5, 2012	
Full Proposal Review	November, 2012	January, 2012
Results	February, 2013	
Award Start Date	March, 2013	
Implementation	March 2013 to April 2015	

#### V. Program Guidelines

- A. General.** This program plans to support about 7 awards to recent Ph.D. (Kandidat of Science) graduates. Proposals are accepted from both individual and team applicants. The team applications can include up to three members. In cases where a team of young scientists need consultation; they can involve one senior scientific advisor. The total amount of grant available is \$15,000 each and the grant can be used over a period of two years. NFSAT and CRDF Global strongly encourage applicants to participate in international scientific conferences and meetings during the grant period.

The proposal submission deadline is **November 5, 2012**, 16:00 (Yerevan time). Submission details are provided below in Section VI.

- B. Eligibility.** Each proposal must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Each Principal Investigator must be a full time researcher or faculty member at SEUA, or its affiliated research institutions.
2. All projects must be oriented toward civilian objectives and must be carried out in a civilian research environment.
3. Applications can be submitted individually or in teams. Applications from teams can include two-three researchers or faculty members including the principal investigator (team leader) and a scientific advisor.
4. Each Principal Investigator must possess a Ph.D. (Kandidat of Science) in natural science or engineering.
5. The Principal Investigator and all team members must be citizens of, and reside permanently in, Armenia during the course of the grant period.
6. NFSAT employees, board, advisory, or science council members are not eligible to apply. In addition, immediate family members of NFSAT board, advisory, or science council members are not eligible.
7. No individual may appear as a Principal Investigator in more than one proposal submitted to this program. An individual cannot be a principal investigator in one application and be a team member in a different application. An individual may be included as a team member in more than one proposal.
8. Applications may include either basic or applied science or engineering, including technological developments that can lead to commercialization.
9. Each proposal will be evaluated independently and therefore should neither be a part of, nor dependent on the success of, other proposals submitted to this (or any other) program.
10. Each application must include separate letters of guarantee that must bear the original signatures of:
  - a. **Principal Investigator:** stating that he/she does not have any income from full-time employment with an institution other than SEUA or its affiliated research institutions.
  - b. **Authorized person at SEUA:** indicating the support of the institution for the proposed research project.

**C. Funding Priorities.** To distinguish between proposals having equal merit as judged according to the Evaluation Criteria listed in Section VII, priority will be given to proposals that exhibit the following characteristics:

1. Applications with innovative new research methods for solving scientific tasks and problems, especially innovations that are shown to be new for Armenia;
2. Research topics aimed at solving actual scientific-technological problems or strengthen the civilian research environment in Armenia;
3. Research topics with a high likelihood of resulting in publication in a prominent international scientific journal and presentation at international scientific conferences and meetings;
4. Applications submitted by women;
5. Applicants from eligible institutions outside of Yerevan; and
6. Applications that include researchers and team members that are not currently receiving support from other NFSAT, CRDF Global, or any other international funding agency.

## VI. Application Instructions

All applications must be submitted to both NFSAT at [ecsp-12@nfsat.am](mailto:ecsp-12@nfsat.am) and CRDF Global at [armenia@crdfglobal.org](mailto:armenia@crdfglobal.org). Proposals submitted to CRDF Global must be in English. Proposals

submitted to NFSAT must be in Armenian and English copies. Each application will be screened for eligibility and completeness upon receipt by NFSAT and CRDF Global. All applicants will be notified by e-mail of the results of the eligibility screening.

NFSAT plans to organize consultations for interested potential applicants every Friday during the period between program announcement and application deadline. NFSAT also plans to organize a seminar in the NFSAT office on October 1 at 16:00 to describe all components of this program to potential applicants. This seminar will include a proposal writing workshop on how to write a technical proposal and develop a budget.

Applications for this competition must be submitted by 16:00 (Yerevan time) on **November 5, 2012** to be eligible. If the application is submitted by email, the applicant will receive a confirmation email from CRDF Global and NFSAT.

Applicants should note the following general rules for this competition:

1. All proposals must be complete when submitted. Applications that do not have all required elements as indicated in this program announcement will be ineligible.
2. NFSAT and CRDF Global will not accept fax submissions.
3. No modifications may be made to the proposal once it has been received by NFSAT and CRDF Global.
4. If applicant's circumstances change significantly after proposal submission that the project can no longer be carried out as proposed, the applicant must notify NFSAT and CRDF Global in writing and indicate that they are withdrawing the proposal from the competition.
5. If necessary, participants may request and receive additional information for completing their applications, but only before the final proposal is submitted.
6. Both NFSAT and CRDF Global reserve the right to request additional information from applicants if necessary.
7. Only reviews and panel rankings from CRDF Global and NFSAT will be considered.

Applications should be submitted to NFSAT and CRDF Global following the guidelines below:

**NFSAT:** All applicants must submit their proposals to NFSAT's address below. The application package should include:

1. One original hardcopy and one electronic copy in Armenian.
2. One original hardcopy and one electronic copy in English.
3. The applicant must submit the original signed hardcopies of his/her statement and a letter of guarantee along with the hard copies of the proposal.
4. The electronic copies of the proposal must be submitted in two formats, ONE electronic file in Word and ONE electronic file in PDF.
5. Proposals in .zip format that contain multiple documents will not be accepted.
6. All applications should be typed with 1.5-spacing, standard 12-point fonts ("Sylfaen" for Armenian and "Times New Roman" for English), with margins of 2.5 cm (one inch) at the sides and on the top and bottom, with all pages, including forms, numbered consecutively on the upper right corner.

National Foundation of Science and Advanced Technologies (NFSAT)

**(Hard-copy submission)**

26, Azatutyun Ave.  
0014 Yerevan  
Republic of Armenia  
e-mail submission: [ecsp-12@nfsat.am](mailto:ecsp-12@nfsat.am)

For questions about the proposal submission process to NFSAT, or for further information about this program, please contact:

NFSAT  
Aleksandr S. Khachunts  
Deputy CEO & Program Director  
Tel: 28-81-92  
[khas@nfsat.am](mailto:khas@nfsat.am)

**CRDF Global:** All applicants must submit their proposals via email to CRDF Global. The application package should include:

1. One electronic copy in English, sent to [armenia@crdfglobal.org](mailto:armenia@crdfglobal.org)
2. The electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted as ONE electronic file in either Microsoft Word or PDF format.
3. Proposals in .zip format that contain multiple documents will not be accepted.
4. All applications should be typed with 1.5-spacing, standard 12-point font (“Times New Roman”), with margins of 2.5 cm (one inch) at the sides and on the top and bottom, with all pages, including forms, numbered consecutively on the upper right corner.

For questions about the proposal submission process to CRDF Global, or for further information about this program, please contact:

CRDF Global  
Meaza Demissie  
Program Manager  
[Armenia@crdfglobal.org](mailto:Armenia@crdfglobal.org)

Each proposal must include all of the elements listed below. Only applications that include this information will be considered.

1. **Cover Sheet (Form A).** All fields on the cover sheet must be complete at the time of submission, including signature of the applicant. The cover sheet should include basic information about the proposal, Principal Investigator (PI), team members, and Institution.
2. **Abstract.** In one concise paragraph, summarize all relevant aspects of the program, with special attention to its objectives, methods, and potential results.
3. **Program narrative, including the following:**
  - a. Description of project objectives.
  - b. Visual timeline of implementation plan.
  - c. A detailed description of the proposed research, including its importance, its relevance to the applicant’s present research, and methods to be used.
  - d. Description of the role of each participating institution.

- e. Expected results and outcomes of the project including the approach, objectives, milestones, and measurements of success that will be used, including possible contribution to solving actual scientific-technological problems.
- f. Equipment & materials to be utilized in the project, with special attention to justifying requests for any equipment & materials for which support is requested.
- g. Applicant's Curriculum Vitae. The proposal must contain two curriculum vitae of one to two pages, one each for the applicant. The CV should include information on the applicant's education, prior and current employment, honors received, research interests, and long-term professional goals (maximum 2 pages), and a list of relevant publications in each of the following categories: peer-reviewed research journal articles in English, peer-reviewed research journal articles in a language other than English, total number of conference abstracts published in conference proceedings. The applicant is expected to have publications in at least one of these categories.
- h. Information on prior or current support from, or involvement in NFSAT, CRDF Global and/or other international support.

4. **Institutional letter of support.** SUEA must provide a letter of support or agreement to participate in the project. This letter, signed by the vice-rector of SEUA should guarantee that the applicant is fully involved in the research work under his/her activity at their organization and that the organization supports the proposed research project.

5. **Statements from the Applicant and team members.** This statement should be signed by the applicant and (if applicable) all team members, briefly confirming that each member has a full-time employment or student status at SUEA and its affiliated institutions involved in the research work under his/her specialty. If awarded, the applicant or team leader must be willing to forgo any additional income for the duration of the project.

6. **Budget (Form B).** The budget must detail all estimated expenses for the project period, including salary support, the cost of all necessary equipment, materials, and supplies (which must be substantiated in the Budget Narrative), and domestic and international travel costs where applicable, including round-trip airfare (economy class, lowest-cost applicable), visa fees, living expenses (including meals and lodging), emergency health insurance (required), and ground transportation. The grant funds must be used to carry out the project **within two years of award**. Form B must be filled out completely. Applicants should submit one budget Form B for the entire award period.

- a. **Allowable Costs** - NFSAT and CRDF Global will not consider any proposal requesting more than 7.0 Million AMD (**\$15,000**)<sup>1</sup> for *each* submission. In case of receiving an award, a project budget may be subject to revision. The following costs are permitted:

- i. **Individual financial support (IFS).** Payment for full-time research work in the framework of the project and each applicant may budget up to 60% for IFS and stipend. The principal investigator can include the support of 1-2 full-time post-graduate students or masters in their budget and one scientific supervisor.

- ii. **Equipment, Materials and Supplies (EMS).** Support for research equipment, including computers, telecommunication devices &

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<sup>1</sup>The amount is subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

services, subscriptions to scientific journals, reagents and other materials to be used in the research. Any item of the requested equipment valued at more than 200,000 AMD (approximately \$500) must be specifically described and justified in the Budget Narrative.

iii. **Travel.** Travel funds may be used for domestic travel within Armenia and to support travel to international scientific meetings. The purpose and cost of all travel should be justified in the Budget Narrative. The following cost guidelines should be used in preparing the travel budget:

1. Air travel to and from the U.S. must comply with the provisions of the Fly America Act. Specifically, trans-Atlantic air tickets must be purchased from a U.S. carrier. For more information on this regulation please refer to the following website:  
<http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants-and-grantees/terms-conditions/lists/grant-terms-conditions/300.0-fly-america-act-%28august-2005%29>.
2. For travel of two weeks or less, living allowances should follow U.S. government per-diem guidelines. Applicants should refer to the following website:  
[http://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per\\_diem.asp](http://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp).

b. **Secondary Collaboration.** Funds may be budgeted for project-related costs incurred by other institutions in Armenia. Secondary collaboration is defined as the delegation of any portion of a NFSAT project to an institution other than the institution of the applicant. Secondary collaboration may be in the form of sub-contracted work, which will be strictly related to the needs of the project. All personnel and facilities involved in secondary collaboration must be specifically listed and described in the application. A separate budget justification must be included for collaborations in the Budget Narrative.

7. **Budget Narrative.** A separate sheet explaining all budget items must follow the budget forms. This sheet should be clearly marked “Budget Narrative.” It is particularly important for all expenses related to travel and the purchase of equipment, materials and supplies to be itemized and justified.

## VII. Selection Process

Eligible applications will be reviewed by independent subject-matter experts and then a review panel according to the following criteria:

1. **Technical/Scientific merit:** Demonstration of a clear understanding of the subject and its implications, the likelihood that the project will advance knowledge in one or more fields of science or engineering, the likelihood that the proposed research will have a substantive, positive benefit to society in general and to Armenia in particular, design and quality of research consistent with that required for high-quality conference presentations, and publications in distinguished peer-reviewed journals as project outcomes.
2. **Personnel Capacity:** The expertise of the applicant and team members in carrying out the proposed research.
3. **Research Plan:** The technical soundness of the proposed approach, the clarity and rationale for the stated goals of the project, the adequacy of technical resources



available to accomplish the work, and the soundness of the plan to fully achieve the project within the time allotted.

4. **Professional Benefit:** Relevance of the proposed work to the applicant's career goals and areas of specialization and interest, potential for proposed work to facilitate the applicant's career goals and development, the likelihood that the work may lead to collaborations, future successful funding, and results published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

**The competition results will be announced in February, 2013.**

## **VIII. Special Requirements**

1. **Conflict of Interest:** NFSAT and CRDF Global require that all grantees adhere to the highest ethical standards in all matters related to CRDF Global awards. For more guidelines on CRDF Global Policy on Grantee Conflict of Interest, please visit [http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants-and-grantees/terms-conditions/lists/grant-terms-conditions/125.0-conflict-of-interest-\(august-2005\)](http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants-and-grantees/terms-conditions/lists/grant-terms-conditions/125.0-conflict-of-interest-(august-2005))
2. **Export Control:** NFSAT and CRDF Global comply with all U.S. laws and regulations and applicable international law pertaining to export controls and to the participation of foreign nationals or institutions in its activities. It is NFSAT and CRDF Global's policy not to conduct any transactions with U.S. restricted entities without appropriate authorization from the U.S. government, including licenses and other permits and restrictions. NFSAT and CRDF Global reserve the right to restrict the participation of any individual or institution in its programs.
3. **Human Subjects:** For information on the policy for projects involving human subjects, please see the General Terms and Conditions of CRDF Global Funding of Research Involving Human Subjects: <http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants-and-grantees/terms-conditions/lists/grant-terms-conditions/117.0-human-research-subjects-%28august-2005%29>.
4. **Protection of Confidential Information:** Applicants are responsible for identifying any written business confidential information contained in their application materials by clearly labeling them "Business Confidential."
5. **Intellectual Property:** NFSAT and CRDF Global make no claim to intellectual property rights under any award.
6. **Award Administration Terms and Conditions:** Applicants may refer to the CRDF Global website for guidance on policies and procedures relating to the financial and contractual management of CRDF Global grants, including conflict of interest guidelines. An online library of resources and reference documents may be viewed at: <http://www.crdfglobal.org/grants-and-grantees/terms-conditions>.

## **IX. Definitive Version of This Announcement**

For explanatory purposes or for clarification, this competition announcement and associated documents may be translated into other languages. In the event of the existence of such a translation, the English language version shall serve as the definitive version determining the interpretation of any provision contained herein. In the case that NFSAT or CRDF Global has

to amend or make corrections and clarifications to this announcement, applicants will be notified as soon as possible.

**X. Additional Information and Support**

Questions and correspondence regarding this competition should be directed to the designated NFSAT and CRDF Global Program representatives (indicated in Section VI). Applicants are requested to identify themselves or their team leader in all correspondence and put the phrase “Armenia Research Grant Program” in the email subject line. NFSAT and CRDF Global at its sole discretion may choose not to disclose certain information in a response to any question or query, if in our view such details would affect the fairness or transparency of the competition or convey an undue advantage to an applicant. NFSAT and CRDF Global also reserves the right to disclose to all other applicants an answer or clarification to a question from an applicant in the interest of fairness, objectivity, and transparency of this competition.

**XI. Application Forms**

<b>Checklist of the Application Contents</b>
1. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cover Sheet (Form A)</b>
2. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Abstract</b>
3. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Project Narrative (including visual timeline of implementation plan)</b>
4. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Institutional Letter of Support</b>
5. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Statement from the Applicant</b>
6. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Budget (Form B)</b>
7. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Budget Narrative</b>
8. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Curriculum Vitae of the Applicant and Team Members (if applicable)</b>
9. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Documentation on Human Subjects Research (if applicable)</b>



## 2012 Early Careers Support Program (ECSP-2012)

### FORM A: COVER SHEET

#### GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Total Amount Requested from NFSAT  <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> (\$15,000 maximum)		General Scientific Area	
Title of the project			
Brief description of the project (not to exceed twenty-five words)			

#### INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT

Full Name (Last, First, Patronymic)			
Date of Birth (Day/Month/ Year)		Passport #	
Sex (Male or Female)		Social Card #	
Contact Telephone #		Fax #	
E-Mail Address		Web Page Address	
University of previous enrollment			
Field of Last Degree awarded		Year Awarded	
Year of Admission (post-graduate courses)		Field of Courses	
HAVE YOU RECEIVED A GRANT FROM NFSAT OR OTHER FUNDING AGENCIES?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If "Yes," please indicate the program and grant number.</i>			
DO YOU HAVE FAMILY MEMBER(S) WORKING AT NFSAT	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If "Yes," please write name of family member and relationship.</i>			

<b>Team Member Full Name</b>					
Date of Birth (Day/Month/ Year)		Passport #		Sex (Male or Female)	
University of previous enrollment					
Field of Last Degree awarded		Year Awarded			
Year of Admission (post-graduate courses)		Field of Courses			

**INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT's TEAM MEMBERS** (if applicable)

<b>Team Member Full Name</b>					
Date of Birth (Day/Month/ Year)		Passport #		Sex (Male or Female)	
University of previous enrollment					
Field of Last Degree awarded		Year Awarded			
Year of Admission (post-graduate courses)		Field of Courses			

<b>Team Advisor Full Name</b> (if available)					
Date of Birth (Day/Month/ Year)		Passport #		Sex (Male or Female)	
University of previous enrollment					
Field of Last Degree awarded		Year Awarded			
Year of Admission (post-graduate courses)		Field of Courses			

**SIGNATURES\***-Required only for hardcopies submitted to NFSAT

Applicant's Signature		Date	
Institution Director's Signature and Institution Seal		Date	

\* By signing this application, we certify that we meet all the eligibility requirements in this announcement, and that all the information provided is accurate to the best of our knowledge.

## FORM B: PROJECT BUDGET

*Applicants should refer to Section VI.6.a. "Allowable Costs", in order to complete Budget Form B.*

Individual Financial Support (full-time)			Requested
Full Name <i>(First, Family, Patronymic)</i>	Monthly Rate	Number of Months	-----
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT			
<b>Equipments and Materials</b> <i>(Please list. All items over US \$500 must be justified in the Budget Narrative. If more space is needed, please list on a separate page.)</i>			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
TOTAL MATERIALS AND SERVICES			
<b>Travel</b> <i>(Please describe in Budget Narrative.)</i>			
Domestic Transportation			
Domestic Per Diem			
International Transportation			
International Living Allowance/Per Diem			
Other Travel Expenses (e.g. visa fees, conference registration fees, etc.)			
TOTAL TRAVEL			
<b>Secondary Collaboration</b> <i>(All secondary collaborating institutions must be identified and secondary collaborators described in detail in the Budget Narrative.)</i>			
Secondary Collaboration: Individual Financial Support			
Name	Daily Rate	# Days per Month (22 max.)	# Months
<b>Secondary Collaboration: Materials and Services</b> <i>(Please list. All items over US\$300 must be justified in the Budget Narrative. If more space is needed, please list on separate page.)</i>			
1.			
2.			
TOTAL SECONDARY COLLABORATION EXPENSES			
<b>Other</b> <i>(Please describe in Budget Narrative.)</i>			
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM NFSAT			
If Applicable: TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES <i>(Please describe in Budget Narrative)</i>			

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
NFSAT staff signature